



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 47, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and then Justice and Home Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Independent Investigation into the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Douglas Ross moved S6M-11247—That the Parliament agrees that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister should refer themselves to the independent adviser on the Scottish Ministerial Code for a potential breach of paragraph 1.3(c) of that code, which requires ministers to give “accurate and truthful information to the Parliament”, on account of their statements misleading the Parliament on 31 October 2023 and 2 November 2023, relating to the date of requests for information from the UK COVID-19 Inquiry.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved amendment S6M-11247.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11247 in the name of Douglas Ross (Independent Investigation into the First Minister and Deputy First Minister), leave out from “refer themselves” to end and insert “continue to ensure that the Scottish Government responds fully to requests for information from the UK COVID-19 Inquiry and from the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry; recognises that information has been provided to the Parliament in the contributions from the Deputy First Minister and First Minister on 31 October 2023 and 2 November 2023, and through written answers; notes that the Scottish Government has

taken action to transfer messages to the UK COVID-19 Inquiry in compliance with its requests, and further notes that the Scottish Government has offered an apology to families that have lost loved ones to, or been impacted by, COVID-19 for any distress that has been caused.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 53, Abstentions 1).

Anas Sarwar moved amendment S6M-11247.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11247 in the name of Douglas Ross (Independent Investigation into the First Minister and Deputy First Minister), insert at end “; considers that there should be binding sanctions for ministers who breach the Scottish Ministerial Code, and calls on the Scottish Government to provide a date by which the requested legal advice will be made available, unredacted, to the UK COVID-19 Inquiry, and to set out to the Scottish Parliament how many emails from personal and party email addresses have been shared with the UK COVID-19 Inquiry as part of its response to the Inquiry's request for evidence.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 54, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister should continue to ensure that the Scottish Government responds fully to requests for information from the UK COVID-19 Inquiry and from the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry; recognises that information has been provided to the Parliament in the contributions from the Deputy First Minister and First Minister on 31 October 2023 and 2 November 2023, and through written answers; notes that the Scottish Government has taken action to transfer messages to the UK COVID-19 Inquiry in compliance with its requests, and further notes that the Scottish Government has offered an apology to families that have lost loved ones to, or been impacted by, COVID-19 for any distress that has been caused.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11260—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 21 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Autumn Statement: Scottish Government Priorities

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The Situation in the Middle East

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 22 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 23 November 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 28 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Female Participation in Sport and Physical Activity

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 29 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 30 November 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 20 November 2023, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11262—That the Parliament agrees that the Mental Health (National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service: Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

5. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11264—That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11261—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11263—That the Parliament agrees that the International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11265—That the Parliament agrees that the following changes to committee substitutes will apply from close of business on Thursday 16 November 2023—

Jackie Dunbar be appointed to replace John Mason as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Audrey Nicoll be appointed to replace Gordon MacDonald as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace Ruth Maguire as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee; and

Jim Fairlie be appointed to replace Audrey Nicoll as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Parliamentary Recess Dates: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11266—That the Parliament agrees, further to motion S6M-09150 and under Rule 2.3.1, that the parliamentary recess dates of 29 June to 31 August 2024 (inclusive) be replaced with 29 June to 1 September 2024 (inclusive).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as noted above.

11. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month: The Parliament debated S6M-10584 in the name of Willie Coffey—That the Parliament marks Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place in November, and World Pancreatic Cancer Day, which takes place on 16 November 2023; understands that pancreatic cancer is the deadliest common cancer in Scotland and the UK, with more than half of people who are diagnosed dying within three months; further understands that survival rates have barely changed in 50 years; considers that data on the experience of patients with this disease is incredibly scarce and poor, leading to concerns of patients' voices being lost in the system; believes that support and information for patients with pancreatic cancer is often neither readily available nor forthcoming; applauds the work of the range of pancreatic cancer charities that do provide information and support for patients and their families; notes the view that more needs to be done to ensure that all patients get immediate and easy access to such support as soon as they are diagnosed, given that, it understands, currently only 12% of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in Scotland are using such support channels; commends all the charities and activist organisations and their dedicated supporters for their tireless efforts to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer, and wishes everyone involved with Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month every success in their endeavours.

The meeting closed at 6.19 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
15 November 2023

Appendix

(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 15 November 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 67th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 14 November 2023 (SP Paper 471)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 15 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/268) laid under section 26 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000

Sportscotland National Lottery Distribution Fund Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 (SG/2023/260) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Sportscotland Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 (SG/2023/259) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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